

TJIC Alert

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January 2010

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RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

1. 2009 Annual Report On International Religious Freedom

U.S. Department of State

October 26, 2009

Full Text: <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/index.htm>

The report contains an introduction, executive summary, and a chapter describing the status of religious freedom in each of 195 countries throughout the world. Mandated by, and presented to, the U.S. Congress, the report is a public document available online and in book form from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

2. Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

May 2009

274 p.

Full Text: <http://www.uscifr.gov/images/AR2009/final%20ar2009%20with%20cover.pdf>

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) names six new countries to its lists of nations responsible for committing egregious violations of religious freedom in the report. It details abuse in 28 nations, many of which are at the top of U.S. foreign policy agenda, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, North Korea, China, Iran and Iraq. Commissioners also provides recommendations to the Obama Administration, the U.S. State Department and members of Congress regarding ways in which U.S. policy can promote human rights and religious freedom in nations USCIRF identifies as the world's most severe religious rights abusers.

3. Religious Freedom in Focus

U.S. Department of Justice

2009

Full Text: <http://www.justice.gov/crt/religdisc/newsletters.php>

This page includes the volumes that contain the religious freedom related cases in the United States and their outcomes.

4. Defining Religion in American Law

Bruce J. Casino

International Coalition for Religious Freedom

2009

Full Text:

http://www.religiousfreedom.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=431:casino-cesnur&catid=48:maryland-task-force&Itemid=447

The paper provides an insight into the issue of how "religion" is to be defined. According to the author, the issue is crucial to international human rights law since the protections afforded religious freedom by the various international and national treaties, conventions, declarations and constitutions apply only to religious beliefs and actions. The American legal system has long been concerned with this definitional issue and has developed more case law and legal commentary on the subject than any other nation. Thus the insights provided by American law may prove useful as governmental agencies or courts in other nations or international tribunals consider the issue.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

5. Religious Expression in American Public Life: A Joint Statement of Current Law

Wake Forest University School of Divinity

January 2010

36 p.

Full Text: http://www.adl.org/religious_freedom/WFU-Divinity-Joint-Statement.pdf

The role of religion in American life continues to be a subject of national discussion and debate. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) has joined with a diverse group of organizations in a statement about the current state of the law regarding religious expression in the United States. The document attempts to clearly set an accurate understanding of the current state of the law. It does not focus on what the law should be, but rather what the law is today.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

6. Religious Freedom and the Military: A Short History

Military Religious Freedom Foundation

January 2010

Full Text: <http://www.militaryreligiousfreedom.org/about2.html>

The concept and practice of religious freedom in the United States Armed Forces date back to the earliest days of this nation. The United States Constitution outlines the basic concept of religious freedom as understood by Americans in the Bill of Rights. All branches of the United States military are afforded the same rights to religious freedom as are American civilians. However, members of the Armed Forces willingly surrender on a temporary basis certain free exercise rights when it impinges on military discipline and the successful completion of a military objective. This guarantee of religious freedom is codified for the Armed Forces in Title 10, United States Code (USC), sections 3073, 3547, 5142, and 8067. Free exercise of religious freedom for military personnel is further detailed in Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 1300.17.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

7. Many Americans Mix Multiple Faiths

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

December 2009

22 p.

Full Text: <http://pewforum.org/newassets/images/reports/multiplefaiths/multiplefaiths.pdf>

The religious beliefs and practices of Americans do not fit neatly into conventional categories. A new poll by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life finds that large numbers of Americans engage in multiple religious practices, mixing elements of diverse traditions. Many say they attend worship services of more than one faith or denomination, even when they are not traveling or going to special events like weddings and funerals.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

8. Global Restrictions on Religion

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

December 2009

72 p.

Full Text: <http://pewforum.org/newassets/images/reports/restrictions/restrictionsfullreport.pdf>

The report finds that 64 nations, about one-third of the countries in the world, have high or very high restrictions on religion. But because some of the most restrictive countries are very populous, nearly 70 percent of the world's 6.8 billion people live in countries with high restrictions on religion, the brunt of which often falls on religious minorities.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

9. ICRF Religious Freedom World Report

International Coalition for Religious Freedom

November 18, 2009

Full Text:

http://www.religiousfreedom.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=47&Itemid=56

International Coalition for Religious Freedom divides the report on religious freedom into Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Russia and the Former Soviet Republics, and the Middle East. Each section provides the current status of religious freedom in individual countries.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

10. Long Time Going: Religion and the Duration of Crusading

Michael C. Horowitz

International Security

p. 162-193

Fall 2009

Horowitz, assistant professor of political science at the University of Pennsylvania, studies the medieval European Crusades to explore whether religiously motivated military campaigns, absent decisive conclusions, may last longer than conventional campaigns because of the nonmaterial reasons for continuing to fight. Despite spectacular failures and rising costs, Crusading continued for centuries. The evidence shows that it is impossible to comprehend the persistence of Crusading over a several-hundred-year period without understanding the religious devotion at the heart of this institution. Horowitz notes that scholars have long argued for centuries about the relative importance of religion in determining behavior. Do actors with genuine religious beliefs, both leaders and foot soldiers, actually fight wars and commit atrocities in the name of religion and religious institutions? Or is religion a proxy for materialist variables such as land grabs or wealth creation? This research contributes to growing work in international relations on the importance of identity attributes and helps to explain how factors such as religion can influence processes such as crisis bargaining and war termination.

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